

NEBRASKA ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE INCENTIVES AND LAWS

Overview

The State of Nebraska offers low-cost and no-cost loans for conversion costs for fleet vehicles, incremental costs of factory-equipped alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), and installation costs for refueling facilities. Metropolitan Utilities Distribution offers a \$500 rebate for conversions and purchases of original equipment manufacturer (OEM) compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles.

Highlights

\$ \$500 rebate from Metropolitan Utilities Distribution for conversions and purchases of CNG vehicles.

State Incentives

The Nebraska Energy Office provides low-cost loans from its Dollar and Energy Saving Loan Program for the incremental cost of AFVs, and the conversion of public and private vehicles. The program also provides funding for the purchase of a dedicated AFV, and purchase and installation of required fueling facilities. For additional information, contact John (Jack) Osterman at (402) 471-2867.

Utility/Private Incentives

\$ Metropolitan Utilities District offers a \$500 per vehicle rebate for conversions to CNG, with a limit on fleet size. For purchases of OEM natural gas vehicles (NGVs), \$500 per vehicle is available for up to 10 vehicles per fleet. Metropolitan Utilities District also offers CNG station feasibility studies, compressor pricing and sizing, and temporary refueling facilities for one year. For more information, call Gina Langel at (402) 449-8247.

The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC) is an ad hoc group created by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the Governors' Ethanol Coalition (GEC) to establish a national program to promote the use of 85% ethanol fuel (E85) as an alternative fuel, enhance agricultural profitability, advance environmental stewardship, and further national energy independence. Through a cooperative effort with the NCGA and its state affiliates, the GEC, state energy offices, and the U.S. Department of Energy, NEVC provides forgivable loans for the installation of public E85 fueling facilities. For more information, contact Phil Lampert at (573) 635-8445 or Sandy Hentges at (573) 636-8590.

Laws & Regulations

LB 1121 (1996) exempts compressed fuel used to operate buses capable of carrying 7 or more passengers from the motor fuels tax.

In 1979, the Governor issued a proclamation that all state vehicles must be fueled with 10% ethanol (E10) whenever practicable.

The Alternative Fuel Tax Act was modified in 1995. As of July 1, 1995, alternative fuels are taxed at the pump when a vehicle is fueled. The exception is that electric and solar vehicles are taxed with a \$75 annual fee.

The Ethanol Development Act established the Nebraska Ethanol Board, a fund for research, development, and promotion of renewable agricultural ethyl alcohol as an alternative fuel, and a fund for production incentives. The state provides a 20¢/gallon direct producer incentive for fuel ethanol produced in the state for plants 25% operational by December 31, 1995, with a cap of \$25 million per plant.

LB 1160 (1994) requires AFV operators to purchase an annual alternative fuel user permit in place of the fuel tax.

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Laws & Regulations (cont.)

Executive Order No. 93-2 created the Nebraska Alternative Fuels Committee to be chaired by the Director of the Nebraska Energy Office.

The Nebraska Energy Office published a directory map of 105 alternate fueling sites in the state for propane, CNG, 85% ethanol blends (E85), 95% ethanol blends (E95), and bio-diesel. The Energy Office also published a handbook for fleet managers which provides comprehensive information on alternative fuels, vehicle technologies, and the legislative and regulatory framework supporting increased use of alternative fuels.

Points of Contact

Future Clean City

Omaha/Lincoln Clean Cities Coalition

John Van Pelt (712) 527-5677

Nebraska State Energy Office

John (Jack) Osterman (402) 471-2867

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Metropolitan Utilities District

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National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition

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Nebraska State Transportation Contact

Department of Roads
John Schulte (402) 479-4654

U.S. Department of Energy

Regional Support Offices

Denver Regional Support Office
Ernie Oakes (303) 275-4817

U.S. Department of Transportation Contacts

Federal Highway Administration

Region 7
Dan Wheeler (816) 276-2750

Federal Transit Administration

Region 7
Joan Roeseler (816) 523-0204

General Services Administration

Regional Fleet Manager

Region 6
Ed Hodges (816) 823-3620

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Regional Pollution Prevention Coordinator

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Steve Wurtz (913) 551-7315